

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the present application. The non-final Office Action dated April 9, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claims 1-7 have been cancelled and claims 8-17 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 8-17 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the above amendment and the following remarks are requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-7 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,337,292. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-7 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter and have added new claims 8-17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: July 9, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


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